

## THE SEVENTEEN-YEAR CICADA ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y., IN 1919.

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On February 24, 1919, the United States Department of Agriculture issued circular 127 devoted to brood X of the seventeen-year cicada, and brood 18 of the thirteen-year race, about to appear from Pennsylvania to Illinois and southward. From this publication we learn that brood X was reported on Long Island, N. Y., in 1902, from Kings, Nassau and Suffolk counties. Dr. E. P. Felt, New York State Entomologist in his eighteenth report, 1902, p. 113, states as follows regarding the observations made on Long Island by Mr. Chester Young: "The insects were observed by him at Wantagh, Nassau Co., also between Massapequa and Amityville, between Sayville and Oakdale, east of Patchogue to Brookhaven, and also to the north of Medford and Holtsville, and a small brood northeast of Riverhead, all in Suffolk county."

On June 9, 1919, Mr. John T. Nichols wrote that cicadas were "reported singing at Mastic last week and I heard them at one point Saturday (a few). This morning walking to the train, at one place there were many on the ground, mostly more or less eaten, some with bodies all gone. Found only two live whole ones." The two specimens were kindly sent to the writer. On June 30 Mr. Nichols wrote: "I have occasionally heard small colonies at Mastic in the past several weeks, notably one in the woodland there on June 28."

Dr. Frank Overton wrote of the cicadas under date of September 1, 1919: "I saw their effects in a small area on the South Country Road just east of Carman's River, and my boy saw them in the woods just east of Patchogue, but I have seen no other evidence of them near Patchogue. They seem to have appeared in spots."

The New York *Sun* for June 16, 1919, stated that: "From Wantage to Farmingdale and as far north as Central Park on

Long Island the pests are so thick that drivers of automobiles yesterday had to put up their wind shields to drive by the hardwood and fruit trees, where the locusts congregate."

From personal observation it can be stated that the cicadas occurred in great numbers north of Massapequa railroad station, and also to the east of that place. On July 18, 1919, Mr. Edward J. Burns and I found many pupæ skins and dead cicadas in the region mentioned. The ends of the branches of many of the oaks had broken where the cicadas had laid their eggs, giving the woods in places a brown appearance. The perennial herb, *Baptisia tinctoria*, grows commonly north of Massapequa, and it had also been extensively used by the cicadas in their egg-laying operations.

Mr. George P. Engelhardt has reported that in a visit to Baldwin, about five miles to the west of Massapequa, he found in the latter part of June but very few seventeen-year cicadas, the main body having evidently emerged to the eastward of that place.

From these facts it will be seen that *Tibicen septendecim* was observed on Long Island in 1919 at about the same places where it occurred in 1902.

In his letter already referred to Dr. Frank Overton makes this interesting statement: "Last year (1918) the seventeen-year cicadas appeared in considerable numbers in the woods along the road between Manorville and Wading River. I collected several about one mile north of the Middle Country Road. This was on a Sunday, June 16, 1918. This was the only appearance that I noticed in 1918. There did not seem to be any in that locality in 1919." Seventeen-year cicadas of 1918 can be referred to brood number IX, which is mostly confined to parts of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. The cicadas occurred in great numbers at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, in 1918, judging from the egg-scars in the branches of trees and bushes as observed by the writer.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to reports received, they were also notably abundant about Pulaski, in Southwest Virginia.—J. R. T. B.